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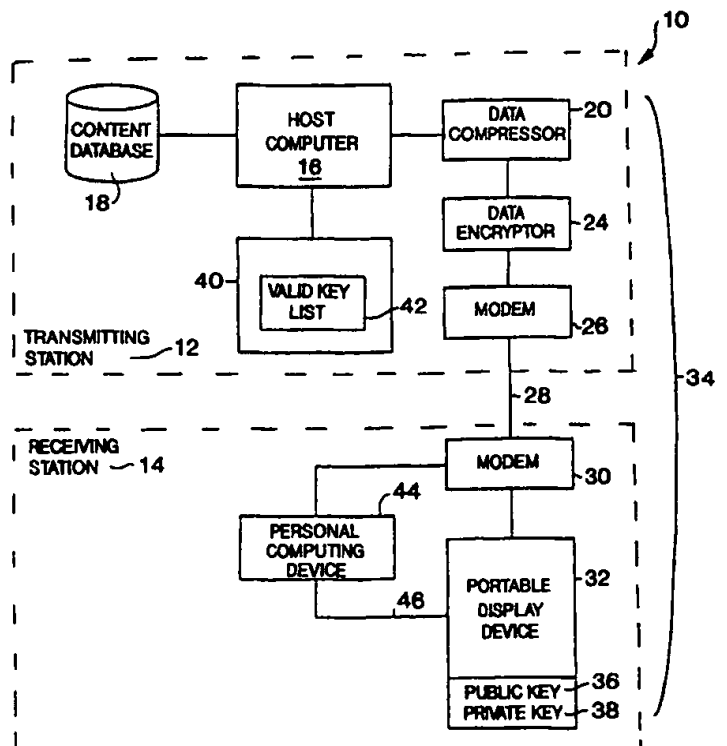
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## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US97/14121 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 8 August 1997 (08.08.97) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 08/693,678 13 August 1996 (13.08.96) US <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> THE VIRTUAL PRESS [US/US]; 1075 Curtis Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US). <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> SACHS, James [US/US]; 503 Gilbert Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US). POMEROY, Thomas, W. [US/US]; 168 Hawthorne, Atherton, CA 94027 (US). <b>(74) Agents:</b> BLAKELY, Roger, W. et al.; Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, 7th floor, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>  <b>(88) Date of publication of the international search report:</b> 7 May 1998 (07.05.98)

**(54) Title:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VIEWING ELECTRONIC READING MATERIALS**(57) Abstract**

An electronic publishing and distribution system is provided for dissemination of written materials that can be read on a portable electronic book. A host computer (16) contains an inventory that can be selected and then downloaded into the book's memory. The host computer keeps track of the transactions, and encodes the data prior to downloading, using an encryption system (34). The encrypted data cannot be decrypted until it is resident in the memory of the book. Upon receipt of the encrypted data, the book decrypts the data. A plurality of electronic keys is provided corresponding (36, 37) to graphical representations such as icons adjacent to each key.



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
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US CL : 345/339, 348, 349, 350; 380/4, 49

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

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**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,E — Y,E	US 5,697,793 A (HUFFMAN ET AL.) 16 December 1997, see figs. 1, 3 and 21.	1--3, 5-9, 11, 17-19, 21-24, 31-41 ----- 4, 10, 12-16, 20, 25-30, 42-50
Y	US 4,597,058 A (IZUMI ET AL.) 24 June 1996, see fig. 1.	10 and 12-16
Y,P	US 5,629,980 A (STEFIK ET AL.) 13 May 1997, see fig. 1.	4, 20, 25-30 and 42-50

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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See patent family annex.

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Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Abdollah Katbab

Telephone No. (703) 305-9667

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[US/US]: 503 Gilbert Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025  
(US). POMEROY, Thomas, W. [US/US]: 168 Hawthorne,  
Atherton, CA 94027 (US).

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(74) Agents: BLAKELY, Roger, W. et al.: Blakely, Sokoloff,  
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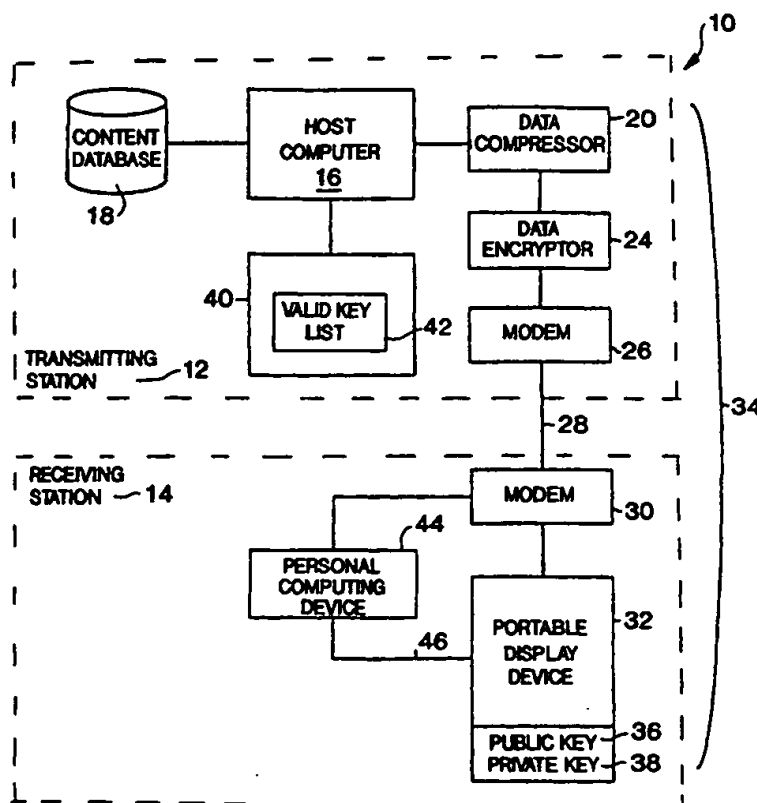
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(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): SACHS, James

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VIEWING ELECTRONIC READING MATERIALS



(57) Abstract: An electronic publishing and distribution system is provided for dissemination of written materials that can be read on a portable electronic book. A host computer (16) contains an inventory that can be selected and then downloaded into the book's memory. The host computer keeps track of the transactions, and encodes the data prior to downloading, using an encryption system (34). The encrypted data cannot be decrypted until it is resident in the memory of the book. Upon receipt of the encrypted data, the book decrypts the data. A plurality of electronic keys is provided corresponding (36, 37) to graphical representations such as icons adjacent to each key.

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

- *With international search report.*
- *With amended claims.*

**AMENDED CLAIMS**

[received by the International Bureau on 5 March 1998 (05.03.98);  
original claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-10 amended; new claims 14-17 added;  
remaining claims unchanged (5 pages)]

1. A system for distributing textual information, comprising:

a host computer having a host memory for storing a plurality of units of textual information;

a first modulator and demodulator circuit coupled to the host computer for transmitting textual information stored in the host memory over a transmission medium;

a portable electronic book for retrieving and displaying textual information, comprising:

a housing including a display screen that displays textual information on display pages, the housing having a plurality of function keys corresponding to functions provided by the electronic book in retrieving and displaying the textual information;

a memory for storing the textual information;  
and

a processor coupled to the memory and display screen for controlling the retrieval and display of the textual information, the processor receiving input from the function keys;

a second modulator and demodulator circuit coupled to the portable electronic book for receiving textual information stored in the host computer via the transmission medium;

wherein the host memory includes a plurality of code numbers and wherein the memory of the portable

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electronic book includes a unique code number, the host computer providing the textual information to the portable electronic book upon matching of the unique code number with a code number in the plurality of code numbers stored in the host memory.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the host computer and the portable electronic book communicate bi-directionally.

3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the host computer is a World Wide Website.

4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the textual information is encrypted and compressed prior to transmission by the first modulator and demodulator circuit.

5. The system of Claim 4, wherein the encrypted and compressed textual information is decrypted and decompressed by the second modulator and demodulator circuit.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the display screen is selected from a group consisting of: a liquid crystal display, a cathode ray tube or an electroluminescent display.



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7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the second modulator and demodulator circuit is a modem located within the portable electronic book.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the display screen comprises a pen and a digitizer screen that is overlaid on the display screen.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the textual information contains copyrighted information.

10. A method for distributing textual information, comprising:

providing a host computer having a host memory for storing a plurality of units of textual information;

providing a portable electronic book for transmitting textual information stored in the host memory over a transmission medium, said portable electronic book also for retrieving and displaying the textual information, said portable electronic book comprising:

a housing including a display screen that displays textual information on display pages, the housing also displays a plurality of function keys corresponding to functions provided by the electronic book in retrieving and displaying the textual information;

a memory for storing the textual information and information; and

a processor coupled to the memory and display screen for controlling the retrieval and display of the

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textual information, the processor receiving input from the function keys; and

identifying the information retrieved over the transmission medium by a code number which permits the addressing of the memory.

11. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of providing bi-directional communication between the host computer and the portable electronic book.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising the steps of encrypting and compressing the textual information prior to transmission.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising the steps of decrypting and decompressing the textual information upon receipt of the encrypted and compressed textual information by the portable electronic book.

14. The method of Claim 10, wherein in the step of proving a host computer, said textual information contains copyrighted material.

15. The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of selectively purging textual information from said memory.

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16. The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of maintaining a record of each unit of textual information that has been transmitted from said host memory.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein in the step of maintaining, said record includes an identification of a recipient of said transmitted textual information.